

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 /062 W
-----090866 121643Z /47
O R 121622Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9911
INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14689

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, US, UK, XL
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TURKS AND CAICOS FEAR RETURN OF
MACKEY AIRLINES

REF: 77 STATE 260462

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED LETTER DATED AUGUST 7 FROM
CHIEF MINISTER OF TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, J.A.G.S.
MCCARTNEY, EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT RECERTIFICATION OF
MACKEY INTERNATIONAL WOULD MEAN THE DEATHKNELL FOR
SOUTHEAST AIRLINES WITH REGARD TO SERVICE TO HIS
TERRITORY. LETTER, ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WAS
FORWARDED TO LONDON BY WHITE HOUSE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

"AS THE LEADER OF A SMALL WEST INDIAN TERRITORY I
HAVE LONG ADMIRERD YOUR STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SO
MUCH SO THAT I PERSUADED MY GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE THE
FIRST MONDAY IN JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS HUMAN RIGHTS
DAY A NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

"THOUGH MY COUNTRY IS A COLLECTION OF SMALL ISLANDS
WITH A TOTAL POPULATION OF 7,500 SOULS, IT SEEMS TO
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ME THAT MY PROBLEMS THOUGH CERTAINLY IN AN INFINITELY
SMALLER ARENA, ARE NEVERTHELESS MUCH THE SAME AS YOURS
AND GIVE AS MUCH PAIN AND AS MUCH JOY.

"HERE ON THESE ISLANDS EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE ELSE'S
PROBLEMS. AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OUR SOCIETY IS SMALL AND
CLOSE KNIT BY FAMILY TIES EVERYONE GETS SOME HELP.
HOWEVER THOSE PROBLEMS THAT ARE COMMUNITY WIDE AND ARE

SEEN AS APPARENTLY SOLVABLE, I AM EXPECTED TO SOLVE.

"ONE PROBLEM I THOUGHT SOLVED HAS NOW SPUN OUT OF MY CONTROL AND ON TO YOUR DESK, AND THAT IS THE AIRLINE SERVICE THAT IS SO VITAL TO THESE ISLANDS.

"PRESENTLY, BUT AFTER MUCH SUFFERING, WE ON THESE ISLANDS ARE ENJOYING EXCELLENT AIRLINE SERVICE PROVIDED BY SOUTHEAST AIRLINES.

"IT WAS NOT ALWAYS SO, WHEN MACKEY INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES SERVICED THESE ISLANDS BEFORE MARCH 14, 1977 AIR SERVICE WAS NOT ONLY MORE EXPENSIVE BUT WAS RIDDLED WITH DELAYS, INCONVENIENCES AND INCREDIBLY BAD RELATIONS WITH THE ISLANDERS AND THEIR ELECTED GOVERNMENT. WE SOUGHT RELIEF.

"WE STOPPED MACKEY INTERNATIONAL AND ENGAGED SOUTHEAST AIRLINES. SERVICE IMPROVED IMMEDIATELY, AND RATES WERE CHEAPER.

"NOW WE LEARN THAT WHEN YOU SIGN THE CERTIFICATION FOR MACKEY IT MEANS THE DEATHKNELL FOR SOUTHEAST. AGAIN OUR ISLANDS WILL SUFFER.

"MR. PRESIDENT I APPEAL TO YOU BOTH IN FAIR PLAY AND IN FAIR COMPETITION. IF MACKEY MUST COME, PLEASE ALLOW SOUTHEAST TO COME AS WELL. THEN IN THE FINEST SENSE OF AMERICAN COMPETITION BOTH THE INTERESTS OF YOUR COUNTRY AND MINE WILL BE WELL AND TRULY SERVED.

"MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR GREAT COUNTRY.

"CORDIALLY,".

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O R 121622Z SEP 78

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9912
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3. UNLESS DEPARTMENT PREFERS TAKE ACTION, EMBASSY,
RELYING ON REFTTEL, PROPOSES MAKE FOLLOWING REPLY:
"PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED THAT I REPLY TO YOUR LETTER
OF AUGUST 7 REGARDING AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED
STATES AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. AS YOU SAY,
HIS CONCERNS FOR HIS COUNTRY ARE VERY MUCH LIKE YOUR
CONCERNS FOR YOURS.

"I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES
HAS DESIGNATED BOTH SOUTHEAST AIRLINES AND MACKAY
INTERNATIONAL, AS WELL AS ANTILLES AIR BOATS, EASTERN
AIR LINES, SHAWNEE AIRLINES, AND SOUTHERN AIRWAYS
FOR SERVICE TO THE CARIBBEAN, INCLUDING, IF AN AIRLINE
SO WISHES, THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. SO SOUTHEAST
CAN "COME AS WELL", AS YOU REQUESTED. MOREOVER, I
AM SURE THAT ANY AIRLINE WISHING TO MAKE A SUCCESS
OF SUCH SERVICE WILL, AT A MINIMUM, HAVE TO MEET
THE COMPETITION IN TERMS OF BOTH PRICE AND QUALITY
OF SERVICE.

"PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO WRITE AGAIN IF AIR SERVICE
TO THE UNITED STATES SHOULD AGAIN CAUSE CONCERN.
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"SINCERELY YOURS,".

4. REQUEST CONCURRENCE.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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